MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN HELD ON THE 28TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1990 AT 11:00 A.M.

On the 28th day of August, 1990, the City Commission of the City of Lufkin, Texas, convened in a Special Meeting in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, with the following members thereof, to-wit:

Louis A. Bronaugh	Mayor
Don Boyd	Commissioner, Ward No. 2
Danny Roper	Commissioner, Ward No. 3
Bob Bowman	Commissioner, Ward No. 4
Jack Gorden	Commissioner, Ward No. 5
Harvey Westerholm	City Manager
Ron Wesch	Asst. to the City Manager/ Public Works Director
Atha Stokes	City Secretary

being present, and

Percy Simond	Commissioner, Ward No. 1
Paul Mayberry	Commissioner, Ward No. 6

being absent when the following business was transacted.

1. Meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Tim Diebel, minister, First Christian Church.

2. REVIEW OF REVISED BUDGET

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the first item for consideration was to review the revised budget.

CMW stated that the preliminary budget ending balance was $186,960.57. CMW stated that the revenue changes were as follows:

Beginning balance 10-01-90	$ 75,000.00	
Tax rate change from .3967 to .3862	(81,138.77)	
DARE Program	35,000.00	
Available funds after revenue changes		$215,821.80
Expenditure changes:		
Hospitalization insurance ($75,000 for hospitalization had already been provided for in the budget)	25,000.00	
Library	15,000.00	
LADDC	20,000.00	
Tax collection	2,079.00	
1.7% lapse in salary	(111,976.07)	
3% salary increase	182,525.82	
(*The following amounts were cut from the budget after the last workshop meeting)		
*Police	(45,056.00)	
*Sanitation	(11,462.00)	
*Recycling	(13,720.15)	
*Street (Paving)	(13,500.00)	
*Planning Commission (Economic Dev.)	(4,018.00)	
Contingency Reserve	175,107.20	

CMW stated that the next page is the Actual Budgeted Expenditures in the General Fund for fiscal year 1990-91 and reflect the budget, total changes and the total budget.

CMW stated that the following page is a General Fund Budget Comparison, which reflect that there is $905,470.13 in additional funds this year. CMW stated that this year there will be a contingency of $175,000 versus $70,000 last year.

CMW stated that some of the items that have increased are: insurance, police, sanitation and ambulance.

CMW stated that the next page is the increase in revenues from the 1989-90 budget to the 1990-91 budget. CMW stated that even though the current year's taxes are greater by $37,780.17 than last year, that represents growth. This year's tax rate is set to bring in the same amount of money as last year excluding growth. CMW stated that sales tax is being estimated at an increase of $150,000, light and power increased by $35,000, an estimated increase in Cablecom of $23,000, and a $16,719.55 increase in municipal court fines, which is basically due to the Interdiction Narcotics Force. Garbage collection reflects an increase because of the new rates and ambulance collection is increased due to a better collection procedure utilizing new computer equipment.

CMW stated that there is a balance of $608,589.92 increase of revenues in the General Fund over the previous year.

In response to question by Mayor Bronaugh, CMW stated that there were no changes to the Water and Sewer Revenue Fund. CMW stated that there is a beginning balance of $50,000 in the Water & Sewer Revenue Fund and with the increase in water rates at $121,392.60, the available funds are $292,627.43. There is a contingency reserve of $99,799.53.

In response to question by Mayor Bronaugh, CMW stated that should the relocation of a 12" water line at Highway 94 and the Loop for $46,000 be eliminated, the budgeted amount for this project will go into the contingency fund as an unencumbered balance until it is authorized for other use.

In response to question by Commissioner Boyd, CMW stated that included in the $45,000 cuts in the Police Department were: lowering the amount that will be spent for fencing the firing range, some items of furniture, and the salary and benefits for a Task Force employee.

Commissioner Boyd stated that with a contingency fund of $175,000 it would be possible to hire a secretary for the Code Enforcement Officer, if an additional CEO is not hired. Commissioner Boyd stated that, in his opinion, the CEO cannot possibly do the job he has by himself. Commissioner Boyd stated that any other person who was made a department head, or a person of another color, would have had a secretary when the position was created. Commissioner Boyd stated that there are numerous violations in the North Lufkin area and in East Lufkin that one man cannot handle alone.

Commissioner Bowman stated that there has been a lot of publicity recently about the need for upgrading the quality of life in North Lufkin and the City Commission concurs with that opinion. Commissioner Bowman stated that there needs to be some recognition that the City has committed itself to doing some things in North Lufkin. Some examples are: The City has completed a $207,000 water improvement project which resulted in approximately 23,000' of upgraded water mains, 25 new fire hydrants and 480 relocated water meters. As a part of the program to eradicate unsightly and unsafe buildings, 44 buildings have been torn down, 30 of which are in Wards 1 and 2. In fiscal year 1989-90, $64,000 was spent for street overlays and 33% of that amount was spent in Wards 1 and 2. Also, in 1988-89 through a contribution from the TLL Temple Foundation, $10,000 was spent for clean up in North Lufkin. In the current budget, the City has allocated $140,000 for overlays on primary streets and of that total $60,000 or 42.7% went to Ward 1. Commissioner Bowman stated that there have been some other equally impressive efforts made in North Lufkin, all of which reflect the City Commission's concern. Commissioner Bowman stated that there is more that can be done in North Lufkin. Commissioner Bowman stated that the appearance of the parks in North Lufkin is an embarrassment to all of the City Commission, not just to Commissioners Simond and Boyd.

Commissioner Bowman stated that with those comments in mind, he would share some information from a meeting with Commissioner Simond yesterday. Commissioner Bowman stated that he told Commissioner Simond that an assistant aide would be provided for Kenneth Williams and at the same time he offered Commissioner Simond an additional $30,000 from the Pineywoods Foundation that would be applied only to North Lufkin for mini-grants that the people living in that area could use for repairs and general clean-up. Commissioner Bowman stated that the only thing he asked of Commissioner Simond was that he attend the budget hearings and participate as a member of the City Commission. Commissioner Bowman stated that it is obvious that Commissioner Simond is not present, and he is not prepared to support the proposal to him until he comes to the meeting. Commissioner Bowman stated that he did not understand why Commissioner Simond would turn down an assistant aide to the CEO and $30,000 in grant funds unless he wants to continue to use his rhetoric in the community and make the other members of the City Commission look like racists, which is not the case.

Commissioner Boyd stated that, in his opinion, this was a bribe, and if the offer had been made to him, he would not have come to the meeting either. Commissioner Boyd stated that the City has not spent nearly the amount of money it needs to spend to make improvements not only to North Lufkin but to East Lufkin as well. Commissioner Boyd stated that the CEO needs assistance to help all of Lufkin, not only North Lufkin.

Commissioner Bowman stated that Commissioner Simond had said that the proposal he made regarding an assistant aide to the CEO and the $30,000 in grant monies was a good deal.

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the CEO has had some help in that the two secretaries in the Planning Department have been available to him. Commissioner Boyd stated that the CEO is a department, and as a department head Mr. Williams needs his own secretary. Mayor Bronaugh stated that there has been a cooperative effort on the part of the City staff including the Parks Department, Street Department, and the Public Works Department. Mayor Bronaugh stated that the City has done more in the last two years in cleaning up Lufkin by setting up Ordinances as a means of enforcement. Mayor Bronaugh stated that the City Commission would like to do more, but cannot because of budget constraints. Commissioner Boyd stated that there is $175,000 in the budget to finance assistance for Mr. Williams.

Commissioner Boyd stated that if Mr. Williams has to depend on clerical assistance from other departments, he must wait until they have completed their work before they can do his, and he needs someone he can depend on for eight hours a day. CMW stated that his secretary has been available to work for Mr. Williams.

CMW stated that, in his opinion, Mr. Williams probably needs more help on the outside than he does on the inside. CMW stated that he feels that the clerical work can be accomplished with existing personnel. CMW stated that Mr. Williams is a good employee and has made a real difference in the office of Code Enforcement.

In response to question by Commissioner Gorden, Chief Snyder stated that the Fire Marshal would be able to assist the CEO in those areas where their jobs overlap.

Commissioner Boyd stated that the Fire Department is understaffed and needs additional personnel. Commissioner Boyd stated that there will be a real problem one day if a major fire breaks out in Lufkin. Commissioner Boyd stated that the City of Lufkin is living 50 years behind times and needs to be modernized.

Commissioner Bowman stated that he also feels that Mr. Williams is doing a fine job but the City does not have the resources to help him complete his job. Commissioner Bowman stated that it is one thing to add another employee to the CEO but the fact is that there are a lot of people living in North Lufkin who do not have the money to repair or paint their homes. Commissioner Bowman stated that he would like to see some improvements made in this area, if not by the City, by a community organization that could put some money into North Lufkin to help those people do the things that need to be done. Commissioner Bowman stated that he did not think that giving Mr. Williams an assistant would solve the problem completely. Commissioner Bowman stated that AB/C is considering one project in North Lufkin. Commissioner Bowman stated that he had worked Monday to get some funds from the Pineywoods Foundation to help in this situation, but apparently his efforts were being perceived in the wrong way.

Commissioner Boyd stated that offering the money is a positive move but a stipulation should not be placed on it that "if you come to the budget workshop I will give you this money". Commissioner Bowman stated that Commissioner Simond needs to be a participating player when the City Commission has decisions to make. Commissioner Bowman stated that Commissioner Simond should be present to vote on this issue as a member of the City Commission, because it is his ward. Commissioner Boyd stated that a person is elected from his ward, but represents the entire City.

Mayor Bronaugh stated that if it wasn't for Foundations, a lot of things in the City would not be done, and they should be complimented for all they do. Mayor Bronaugh stated that with Commissioner Bowman's suggestion, the City Commission might prevail on the Pineywoods Foundation and use those funds along with AB/C helping not only in North Lufkin but throughout the City. Commissioner Gorden stated that there is a grant application pending that will have a direct impact on the North Lufkin area. Mayor Bronaugh stated that the Grant is a rehabilitation program which will primarily effect Ward 1 and a portion of Ward 3. Commissioner Boyd stated that the City Commission should not place a lot of trust in Federal grants because they may not come through. Commissioner Boyd stated that the City had made a mistake a number of years ago by refusing to accept Federal monies and now it is difficult to receive a grant.

Commissioner Boyd stated that as far as the replacement of water lines in North Lufkin are concerned, the City has helped themselves as much as they helped the residents because they saved millions of dollars by replacing the old cracked water mains.

Commissioner Gorden stated that the County committed $7,500 to the Chamber of Commerce for the Small Business Development Center, and with a matching donation from the City, this project would be able to continue. Commissioner Gorden stated that in visiting with the City Manager there appears to be some unused funds in the 1989-90 budget for the Main Street program that could be applied towards this amount. Commissioner Gorden stated that he would like to see the City make a commitment to this program for another year with the understanding that this is probably the last contribution. CMW stated that the $5,000 contribution to the Main Street program for August and September could be used for the Small Business Development Center contribution, with $2,500 being taken out of the budget for fiscal year 1990-91.

Commissioner Roper stated that this is the kind of decision that Commissioner Bowman was referencing when he stated that he would like for Commissioner Simond to be present at the meeting. Commissioner Roper stated that, in his opinion, the other members of the City Commission would like to hear Commissioner Simond's views on the offer from the Pineywoods Foundation, his views on administrative help, secretarial help, or help out in the field. Commissioner Roper stated that a legitimate offer has been made through the Pineywoods Foundation, which would take a minimal amount of effort on the City's behalf to administer the program that has been offered. Commissioner Roper stated that his mind is not closed to the way the budget is now being presented but he would like to hear from Commissioner Simond in regards to the offer by the Foundation. Commissioner Roper stated that he agreed with Commissioner Gorden in regards to the budget - there is a good contingency reserve, the street paving is in the budget, but the question about the CEO has not been answered. Commissioner Roper stated that he felt that these were questions that the Commissioners would like to hear Commissioner Simond expound on.

Mayor Bronaugh stated that, in his opinion, the administration of grant monies to be administered by volunteer help in a community is an excellent idea - this would mean that the tax money would go that much farther.

Mayor Bronaugh stated that amendments to the budget can be made throughout the year if the need arises.

In response to statement by Mayor Bronaugh, Commissioner Bowman stated that the Pineywoods Foundation normally does not fund salaries, but rather projects of a nature that try to help people.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jack Gorden and seconded by Commissioner Danny Roper to accept the General Fund and Water and Sewer Fund Budget with an amendment of $7,500 to the Chamber of Commerce for the Small Business Development Center which is to come from the unused $5,000.00 in this year's budget and $2,500.00 in the 1990-'91 budget.

The following vote was recorded:

Aye: Commissioners Gorden, Roper, Bowman, Mayor Bronaugh
Nay: Commissioner Boyd

Motion carried by a vote of 4 to 1.

Mayor Bronaugh stated that he would like to thank Commissioner Boyd for his appearance and comments. Mayor Bronaugh stated that to not show up is hardly a way of representing the people of the community.

4. PUBLIC HEARING DATE

Motion was made by Commissioner Danny Roper and seconded by Commissioner Jack Gorden that Public Hearing date for the budget for fiscal year 1990-91 be set for Tuesday, September 4, 1990, at 5 p.m. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

5. COMMENTS

CMW stated that a computer printout of all City vehicles, who drives them, date of purchase, etc. has been handed out to the Commissioners for their information.

CMW stated that a letter from the DETSIF has also been handed out showing how much the City has saved by having the self-insurance program.

CMW introduced a visitor from Paris, France, who is visiting in the area.

6. There being no further business for consideration, meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Louis A. Bronaugh
Louis A. Bronaugh - Mayor

ATTEST:

Atha Stokes
Atha Stokes - City Secretary